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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR.

12 October 1955

SUBJECT

Railroad Construction Projects

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1. On 1 August 1955, heavy construction work started in the eastern area south of Berlin, about 1.5 kilometers north of Wilhelmshorst, along a northeast - southwest line. Sections of pre-fabricated temporary buildings and large quantities of building materials were being shipped into this area. The operations were connected with the construction of a double-track railroad line extending from the southern section of the Berlin Outer Freight Ring across the Havel River. The construction project was called "SA-GO".¹
2. Electrification operations are scheduled to be resumed on the Halle - Koethen railroad line on 2 October 1955 when the new winter time table goes into effect. Power will be supplied by the newly constructed Muldenstein railroad power station.²
3. On 12 August, it was observed that a new signal cabin was under construction in the area between Kuestrin - Altstadt and the Oder River. It was reported that the trackage in this area was to be enlarged.³
4. Repair work on the railroad bridge over the Oder River near Kuestrin was completed and the railroad bridge has been in operation (double-track) since 15 July 1955.⁴
5. Since early August, blasting operations have been under way at the bottom of Lake Templin. The blastings were made in order to obtain a solid foundation for a railroad embankment scheduled to be built across part of the lake. [redacted] the mud of the lake bottom had to be removed to a depth of 34 meters. The railroad line over Lake Templin is scheduled to be completed by 1 September 1956. A cantonment scheduled to quarter several thousand construction workers employed on the project was being erected along the Potsdam - Michendorf highway. The morale of the construction workers was said to be rather poor. The workers complained about poor accommodations without electric lights, poor food and low wages.
6. The new housing camp at Rastow and the camp at [redacted] are scheduled to be completed by 1 October 1955.

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7. On 4 August, it was learned that the Main Administration for Brown Coal in the Ministry for Heavy Industry intended to build a railroad line from the "Glueckauf" Mine south of the Trattendorf electric power station to a standard gauge railroad line. The project was designed in connection with the establishment of a new brown coal processing plant at Schwarze Pumpe (Kombinat Schwarze Pumpe). As far as possible, the track is to utilize the embankment for the new railroad line built by the East German railroad administration. The two tracks are to be 6 meters apart. A new double-track coal railroad line is also scheduled to be built from the newly established open-pit mine at Nochten to Kombinat Schwarze Pumpe and the Trattendorf electric power station. This line will cross the new railroad line of the railroad administration through an underpass about 7.5 kilometers north of Knappenrode. The two railroad lines will also carry coal to Trattendorf and Kombinat Schwarze Pumpe from the Bu... open-pit mine.⁶
8. [redacted] 86 men were assigned to construction work on the Deuben - Profen railroad line on 20 July.⁷ 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment. As previously reported, work on the construction of a rail link between Saarmund and Gollm, the last remaining stretch of the Berlin "West Ring" was started in mid-July. [redacted] Press reports indicate that the realization of the project is meeting with great difficulties and that the [redacted] before mid-1957. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. This statement confirms information [redacted] that the first trial run on the re-electrified Halle - Koethen line section was made on 27 July, [redacted] 25X1
3. [redacted] Comment. Information on the enlargement of the Kuestrin railroad station was transmitted previously. [redacted] 25X1
4. [redacted] Comment. Information on the replacement of the military bridge equipment utilized for the temporary reconstruction of this railroad bridge was transmitted previously. [redacted] 25X1
5. [redacted] Comment. The construction of a 400-meter loading ramp at Neubukow railroad station which serves the Wustrow AAA range was known previously. [redacted] 25X1
6. [redacted] Comment. Information on railroad construction projects in the brown coal area near Schwarze Pumpe was transmitted previously. [redacted] 25X1
7. [redacted] Comment. It is not quite clear whether a new railroad line eliminating the Zeitz railroad station will be built between Deuben and Profen or if the information refers to repair work on the existing Deuben - Zeitz - Profen railroad line. 25X1

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